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tions of ancient armor in the world, accessible to study by the American armor designers, is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. This collection, ranking probably seventh in the world, now includes the famous Riggs Collection, which represents the life work of a wealthy student of the subject, and includes some of the richest and rarest pieces that have been in the market since 1850. It is as an incident to this collection that there was established at the museum an armorer's workshop. So far as is known it is unique. It was established for the purpose of cleaning, repairing, or, in rare cases, restoring pieces that were defective. To this end the museum has studied exhaustively the processes of making armor, and has collected from all parts of the world the tools of the ancient armorer's art.

When the war broke out, learning that the government was in need of skilled makers of models for the preparation of armor, Director Robinson, of the Metropolitan Museum, with the sanction of the trustees, placed the department of armor at the disposition of Secretary of War Baker. Since then numerous designs have been carefully worked out by Major Dean and actually made by Tachaux and his young French assistant, Sergt. Bartel, now of the Ordnance Department.

Major Dean, himself, was brought into the service of the Army in November, 1917. Owing to his lifelong study of the subject he was commissioned as a major and sent abroad at once to report on the status of armor. He returned to the United States late in January and has kept the armor workshop of the museum busy, week days and holidays, turning out models in accordance with the suggestions of General Pershing and the Ordnance Department. No less than 25 different types of armor defenses have been made in various factories in

experimental lots, including in number from a few score to many thousand pieces, some of which have found favorable comment at American headquarters. These armor defenses include even arm and leg guards, the use of which was suggested by the study of hospital statistics in France and England. It appeared that more than 40 per cent. of the hospital casualties suffered were leg wounds, and no less than 33 per cent. arm wounds.

In connection with this work every effort has been made to improve the character of metal used in the armor making. A committee of the National Council of Defense, including the names of such armor experts as Alexander McMillan Welch, Edward Hubbard Litchfield, Ambrose Monnell, Dr. G. O. Brewster, and Clarence H. Mackay, has dealt especially with the problem of personal armor. And some of the most eminent metallurgists of the country, including those on the committee, have devoted almost their entire time to the question. Among these is Professor Henry M. Howe, of Columbia University, who has made an exhaustive study of helmet metal, aiming to give the American soldier better protection than the soldier of any other nation.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the National Museum; of Henry Shaler Williams, emeritus professor of geology at Cornell University; of John Duer Irving, professor of economic geology at Yale University, while engaged in war work in France; of Henry George Plimmer, professor of comparative pathology in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, and of Ludwig Edinger, director of the Neurologic Institute of Frankfort-on-Main.